

Bavarian News

Vol 2. Nr. 21

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

November 1, 2006

WEATHER WATCH

Weather conditions, German law dictate what tires you should use

IMA-E Public Affairs

As Winter 2006 approaches, the Installation Management Agency – Europe reminds motorists that German law regarding the use of winter tires has changed from last year.

In a rule change which took affect May 1, using tires “suitable to the weather” is required.

Driving with summer tires on icy or

snowy roads is now a traffic offense, which can lead to a fine of 20 to 40 Euro. Additionally, insurance companies can deny coverage to motorists driving with summer tires on wintry roads.

In the case of a traffic accident in adverse winter conditions, police can assign blame to a motorist without snow tires, regardless of who actually caused the accident.

How do you know if tires meet the winter standard?

Tires labeled with “M+S” or with a “snowflake” are considered legal if their tread pattern is at least 1.6 millimeters. For best safety, however, winter tires with a tread pattern of less than 4 millimeters should be replaced.

Tires can be inspected for safety at AAFES garages, tire shops or road service providers such as ADAC.

Chains should be used if you plan to drive in heavy snow or ice. A combination of summer tires and snow chains is not a safe alternative.

When should you begin using winter tires?

Under the new law, there is no set date; road and weather conditions dictate use.

Many experienced motorists put winter tires on at the first snow and

leave them on until early spring. It's easier than changing back and forth and avoids the possibility of being stuck without the right tread if the weather suddenly changes for the worse.

Historically, German roads begin to see snow around Thanksgiving. The new changes are covered in article 2, paragraph 3, of the German road traffic regulation.

VOTING

Troops still have time to register to vote

by SARA WOOD

American Forces Press Service

Service members and U.S. citizens living overseas still have time to register, request a ballot, and vote in November's mid-term elections, the Defense Department official in charge of the absentee voting program said Oct. 18.

Your vote Counts!

Visit <http://www.1perscom.army.mil/Default.asp>. Click on “Your Vote Counts” under NEWS or contact the USAG Grafenwoehr Human Resource Directorate at DSN 475-6753 for more information.

Visit <http://www.fvap.gov/> for additional voting information.

are counted.

“If you’ve gotten your ballot, vote it and return it,” Brunelli said. “If you haven’t gotten your ballot, if you haven’t registered and you want to register, there’s still time to do it in many states.”

The Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, at www.fvap.gov, has state-by-state

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JOINT MULTINATIONAL TRAINING COMMAND

Jump kicks off joint training

700 U.S., German paratroopers conduct mass tactical jump

Story and photo by ARTHUR Mc QUEEN

U.S. Army, Europe Public Affairs

By the numbers: as eight C-130 Hercules transports slowed to 130 knots 800 feet above the ground, more than 700 U.S. and German paratroopers jumped from the aircraft, living up to the embroidered wings on their uniforms.

The Oct. 16 and 17 jumps marked the first mass tactical jump by the four Germany-based battalions of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team since the BCT's Sept. 15 designation as a modular unit.

The exercise will not be the last, though, for the troops located in Bamberg and Schweinfurt, and who are part of a 173rd that is now six battalions strong.

The headquarters and two remaining battalions are based in Vicenza, Italy.

“This is just the beginning,” said Col. Chip Preysler, 173rd commander.

The jumps kicked off a series of training events meant to build teams and mold unit leaders into an effective combat force, Preysler said, as the battalions progressed through small-unit live fire and artillery training on Joint Multinational Training Command ranges in Grafenwoehr.

These exercises “are the building blocks that enable our Soldiers to progress in their critical skills,” Preysler said. “Getting boots on the ground safely is essential to being a paratrooper.”

On the first day's jump, Soldiers contended with overcast skies, a slight breeze and communication problems.

The second day, however, was nearly perfect, with minimal winds and few issues, according to combat jump veteran Sgt. 1st Class Michael Levesque.

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Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne BCT exit a C-130 Hercules transport Oct. 17 at Grafenwoehr during the unit's first mass tactical jump since its redesignation.

SCHOOL NEWS

Vilseck High School students get the facts at '06 college fair

Vilseck High School freshmen Shanteria Harris and Felicia Parreno sign up for more information from Johnson & Wales University at the Oct. 25 college fair.



Story and photo by JODI WARD

Staff writer

Vilseck High School senior Simona Womack has already applied to three top-notch schools, but she is still unsure where she wants to study Environmental Science next fall.

Womack joined nearly 120 other students who attended Vilseck High School's annual College Fair Oct. 25.

The decision of where to go can be a tough one for any high school student, but it is especially difficult for DoDDS Europe high school students, for whom college can seem,

and is, oceans away.

Because college and university admissions representatives are not usually sent overseas, Vilseck and Grafenwoehr community members were called to duty. Over two dozen colleges and universities were represented by community members and school alumni.

And they did more than hand out school brochures and rattle off statistics on class sizes and job placement. These college grads were able to share especially valuable information with the students—their personal experience.

“I’ve always liked using college graduates,” said the fair organizer and VHS counselor Dr. Paula Peterson. “When they talk to the students about the college they represent, they tell them the real story.”

Bill Kastner, a 1974 graduate of the Citadel, certainly knows a thing or two about his alma mater.

“My father was a 1950 graduate, and my two sons graduated from there in 2002 and the other in 2006,” said Kastner. “I tell people that we’re just not creative in choosing schools, (but)

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Q&A

What is your favorite book, and why?



Anastasia Pollock
"My favorite is the Divinci Code, by Dan Brown, because it kept my attention. I couldn't put it down!"



Davinna Branham
"I just read The Other Woman, by Jane Green. It's hysterical... it's all about a woman and her overly involved mother-in-law."



Mary Lynn Sommerfeld
"One of my favorites is To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee. ... When I first read it, back in the 60's, it was considered revolutionary."



Kim Mann
"Going Overboard: The Mis-Adventures of a Military Wife, by Sarah Smiley. It's about her life while her husband was deployed. It's just really funny!"



Dave Sterwart
"The Proud Tower, by Barbara Tuchman. The (book) captures the events and time in aristocratic Europe from the late 1800s that led to World War I."



Andrea Proelss
"My favorite book is every book. I like them all, but I do really love the Harry Potter books, by J.K. Rowling."



Gaby Johnston
"River's End, by Nora Roberts. I don't really know why it's my favorite; maybe because it's not your typical romance where you know right away what's going to happen."



Elizabeth Wargacki
"I'm an English major, so it's impossible to pick one, but I did just read Life of Pi, by Yann Martel; it was entertaining."

Command Message

Do your part to save energy, invest in your child's future

The headline of our last edition spoke about the Crown Jewel Bazaar. This MWR event, executed in conjunction with private organizations and sponsored by the Graf and Vilseck Community Spouses Club was a great success. Thanks to everyone who made this happen – providing goods from all over Europe and helping us get ready for Christmas. So, off we go to the column...

Energy awareness

October was National Energy Awareness Month and the theme was "Energy Independence Depends on US."

It is no secret that the United States depends on foreign imports for energy. With the change of seasons and the increased use of energy to heat our homes, it's important to reflect on how Grafenwoehr uses our energy resources.

In short, Grafenwoehr and the rest of IMA-E



can do a better job. Costs have increased by more than 50 percent since the FY03 baseline, and it reflects both increased use and the dollar-to-Euro conversion rate.

We can all do better. Turn down the heat in your homes, and wear a sweater or sweatshirt. Turn off the lights, do full loads of laundry, and don't have the heat on with the windows open.

These small measures make a huge difference in our usage rates and ultimately save funds that we can use for other services to the community. Please help us out by conserving energy.

Good Samaritan Law

In Germany, the Good Samaritan Law requires motorists to stop and render aid to other drivers when they are involved in an accident.

Recently we had an incident in which a member of the community stopped to give aid in a suspected accident, and he was surrounded and intimidated into giving the "victims" money.

While we all want to help out accident

victims, the best advice to follow is when there is no obvious traffic accident that requires immediate aid, just pull over at the next safe area and report the stranded motorist to the military police.

School events

There are two school events I would like to highlight in this edition. School children recently completed the National Red Ribbon Campaign.

This program, designed to facilitate general awareness of chemical abuse, encourage organizations to take an active stand against sobriety and to promote a drug-free America. From all reports, it was a very successful campaign.

I suggest all families engage their children early concerning substance abuse because, to

See PRAYER Page 3

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U. S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Military widows face a reality that proves too ugly for some people



**JACEY
ECKHART**
On the Homefront

Joanne Steen's husband was a helicopter pilot. When you ask her how long they were married, she says, "Not long enough."

When you ask again, she says more firmly, "Not. Long. Enough."

If they had been married 50 years, maybe that still wouldn't have been long enough. Joanne and Ken met at the Officer's Club at Oceana when they were both 35. They had a wedding, bought a house, planned to have children.

And one ordinary Friday afternoon in 1992, Lt. Ken Steen was killed with six others when the helicopter he was piloting came apart in midair over Lessner Bridge in Virginia Beach.

Joanne doesn't want that to be the story I write.

"But Joanne, you wrote a book..."

"Coauthored a book," she interrupts. "Yeah, you are a widow who coauthored a book called 'Military Widow: A Survival Guide.' You are a widow driven to get a counseling degree and start a support group for military widows. Babe, I think that's the story here."

But Joanne doesn't want to be the story. She hardly wants to be in the story. No one does.

No one volunteers to suddenly and forever be a military widow. No one wants to walk into a room and be the reminder that good men and women do die young.

I can understand that. I can understand that need to protect grief from other people. Yet we live in a time of war.

According to Department of Defense statistics, about 45 percent of the 3,000 service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past five years were married.

More widows and widowers walk among us every day. More parents who have lost a child. More families who are taking care of wounded warriors or suffering through the rigors of post traumatic stress disorder.

And still the rest of us keep saying and doing all the wrong things. "I once had an instructor of a course I was taking tell me that she was surprised that I was upset by my husband's death," said Joanne. "She told me that when I married into the military I should have been prepared

" I once had an instructor tell me that she was surprised that I was upset by my husband's death. She told me I should have been prepared for my husband to die. "

for my husband to die."

Joanne says that kind of cruel remark is common for widows to hear during their unplanned trip through a living hell.

Widows are told that they are still young and pretty and will find someone else. Other people confide in the bereaved that this death or this trauma is part of God's plan.

See PUBLIC PREFERS Page 3

USAREUR COMMAND MESSAGE

Two USAREUR Soldiers struck, killed by train

USAREUR has suffered yet another needless tragedy. Two of our Soldiers died two weeks ago after being struck by a train.

The Soldiers had just spent the evening enjoying the camaraderie of fellow Soldiers at a barbeque.

They were struck shortly after leaving the gathering.

They were 21 and 22 years old. Their deaths represent the second and third fatalities involving trains this year.

Tragedies such as these are preventable.



Leaders must ensure all Soldiers understand the dangers associated with trains in Europe.

These trains are typically fast and quiet, and can kill those who get too close.

In addition, we must all make a personal commitment to act responsibly and avoid unsafe behavior. Complacency kills.

If we do not practice continuous, deliberate risk management, our everyday activities can lead to injury or death.

We also have a personal responsibility for the lives of our fellow Soldiers. When we see someone behaving irresponsibly, we must have the courage to step in and intervene.

Our actions can make the difference between life and death.

Every tragic loss to preventable accidents hurts families, lowers unit morale, disrupts unit cohesiveness, and reduces mission readiness.

I therefore want all leaders to direct their energy toward preventing these accidents.

We can and must prevent these tragedies through effective leadership and supervision.

Our goal remains *No Loss of Life*. To achieve this goal, we must act responsibly, avoid unnecessary risks, and take care of one another.

*David D. McKiernan
Commander,
U. S. Army Europe*

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
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Zeilaekerstrasse 35 • 92637 Weiden • Telefax 0961-67050-32
Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.



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You’ve got to really like someone to do this much laundry

By MICHELLE CUTHRELL
Alaska Post

I really didn’t think anyone could dirty more clothes in one day than my husband. He’s an Army man, and let’s face it, Army men produce a lot of laundry.

First, there’s the physical training uniform — the cute little gray and black exercise getup with the blinding neon belt Soldiers wear to PT each morning.

The PTs aren’t bad because at least you can anticipate their nastiness, so when your husband walks back through that door at 7:15 a.m. dripping sweat and smelling like a compost pile, you can already have the nose plugs and tongs waiting in place to position the laundry accordingly.

Then, there’s the uniform the Soldiers wear all day long — the Army Combat Uniform, or ACU. (Did I mention that you need a degree in acronyms to wash the laundry in my house?)

This uniform seems pretty benign — that is, until the 120-degree, all-encompassing heat-producing boots come off and you have to Lysol your entire house to get the foot fungus off that beaten path your husband treks each day from the laundry room to the shower.

That shower, then, produces another set of laundry, because then not only does he toss his PT uniform, his ACUs, his dirty socks and

his shower towel in the laundry basket, but now he throws an entire second set of nighttime clothes into the basket for me to wash when he’s through. And that’s not all.

When he heads to bed three hours after coming home, showering and changing into new clothes, he will insist like Old Faithful that these new civilian clothes now smell funny, and will choose to change into an entire new set of clothes to sleep in for the night.

By the time I put my one dirty sock and maybe two pairs of jeans (but only if I’ve worn them for one to two weeks straight already) into the basket, it’s already time to wash the laundry again.

In the two years we’ve been married, that’s a whole lot of laundry. But for the first eight months of deployment, I enjoyed somewhat of a respite. That is, until “I-can’t-wear-it-twice” Cuthrell helped me bring his son into the world in April.

I really don’t understand how a person literally 1/11 the size of his father can produce more laundry than his 28-year-old, uniform-wearing dad, but Connor somehow does.

First there are the clothes he spits on, pukes on, drools on and chews on. After those are changed for the day, there are the clothes he pees through and poops on, followed by the clothes he decorates with pea pictures and

pretties with peach stains.

Then there are all the spit rags, wash cloths, bath towels and bibs that clean up the spit, snot and drool, and wipe away the pee, poop, peaches and peas.

Of course, then there are the clothes Mommy must wash herself after cleaning up a baby who spits, poops, pees and plays all over his clothes. And the laundry she must wash after taking care of the “other” kind of feeding.

Mental note to new nursing mothers — keep an extra shirt in your purse at all times. When your baby is cooing in your grocery cart and another baby in Aisle 12 starts crying, your milk supply lets down because your body thinks it’s time to feed.

You’re not going to want to walk around the Commissary with two wet circles on your shirt during lunch hour when a million Army guys are parading through the store.

By the time my husband comes home, we’re going to have to start a personal business to complete all the laundry the three of us create each day.

Or maybe he will.

I think 16 months of home front deployment should count for at least a week’s worth of laundry.

And I’ll enjoy watching him wash all three loads each day.

Michelle Cuthrell is a freelance writer. She writes about life as a military spouse at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, while her husband, a lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, is deployed to Iraq with the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Prayer breakfast reflects on military benefits, challenges

Continued From Page 2

be blunt, ‘it’ is out there.

It is far better for our children to learn about drugs from family members than to have to deal with a drug tragedy later when it arrives in your home.

Parent-teacher conferences are also upon us. Held Nov. 8-9, this is your chance to see how your children are doing in our schools.

The place of duty for all USAG Graf personnel is the parent-teacher conference, and I encourage all other units to do the same. Your interest in your children’s development goes a long way to ensuring their success in school and in life.

In closing, Chaplain May, the IMA-E chaplain, was the guest speaker at the Grafenwoehr Community Prayer Breakfast. His message—that we all have challenges, but those challenges make us stronger—resonated with the audience. We will have more of these events to allow all of us to stop and reflect on both the benefits and challenges we have serving our country in the military.

Finally, I ask everyone to pay attention when driving on post. During PT, slow down when passing runners. And remember, pedestrians have the right of way in all marked crosswalks.

It’s great to be a resident of the Free State of Bavaria, particularly as we approach the traditional year-end holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Get out and see what Bavaria has to offer and, as always, the garrison staff works to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

Public prefers happy couples over ‘weepy widows’

Continued From Page 2

It isn’t only the thoughtless things we say that hurt them. We also do stupid things.

Businesses offer a discount to active duty and their family members, but don’t extend the courtesy to widows because widows should be old and in that retired group. Coworkers get impatient when the sight of someone in uniform sparks new tears in a widow—that ain’t good customer service.

“People just want you to feel better,” Joanne said in a recent interview. “I give them the benefit of the doubt. They are trying to be kind.”

How is that kind? To me that smacks of pure ignorance.

We don’t bother to find out about what

exactly these widows have to go through because we don’t really want to know. We don’t want to know that they often have to fend off inappropriate sexual advances from people they know.

We don’t want to hear about relatives and friends who now want to borrow money from the insurance payment. We don’t want to care about ex-wives who ask at the funeral whether they will still be getting child support.

All that is too ugly for us. Too uncomfortable. Too real. We want the bereavement over soon and have widows get

“It isn’t only the thoughtless things we say that hurt them. We also do stupid things.”

on with their lives. Our world wants to see happy couples not weepy widows,” said Joanne. “We want to fix their

grief or have them fix it. But that grief goes on for a lot longer than the world is willing to tolerate.”

That’s why Joanne Steen and her coauthor Regina Asaro wrote their book. For us. Not only for widows, but for the rest of us—the realtors and teachers and secretaries and drycleaners and 7-Eleven clerks and doctors and chaplains and church members and neighbors up the street.

The authors and the many widows who shared their insights are all hoping that this book will protect the next wave of widows from a world of hurt. We all need to grasp that the toughest job in the military is not being a military wife. The toughest job is being a military widow.

(Joanne Steen welcomes your questions and comments about military widows. E-mail her at Joanne@militarywidow.com. Find out more about “Military Widows: A Survival Guide” at www.militarywidow.com.)

A military wife for 19 years, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist from CinCHouse.com (www.CinCHouse.com) and author of “The Homefront Club” (Naval Institute Press 2004).

Teen television viewing habits linked to weight problems

By ROBERT JOHNSON
Fort Leonard Wood Guidon

We’re a TV nation, and we’re hooked on the tube. Admit it. You may claim you don’t watch television, but somehow you still know all the words to the theme from “Gilligan’s Island.”

And the ratings back me up. On any given night, more than half of all Americans are tuned in to some form of television entertainment — whether it’s cartoons, a classic movie or the game of the week.

And there’s nothing wrong with watching television. For many of us, the television is a gateway to the world. Thanks to TV, I have been able to witness man walking on the moon, a president resigning, the Challenger disaster and the World Trade Center attacks — I have seen history thanks to the soft glow of the television. It can entertain, inform and educate.

But like anything, too much of a good thing is a bad thing.

A study by Johns Hopkins University concludes a child’s weight and lack of physical activity increases with the number of hours spent watching television. By 2010, one in four children under the age of 18 will be overweight. It’s an epidemic of childhood obesity that begins with the click of a remote.

The study found 26 percent of children watch more than four hours of television per

day, but watching isn’t the only concern. This same study reported 20 percent of children have less than two hours of vigorous activity per week.

Given that television watching is a sedentary activity, often combined with high-calorie, high-fat snacks, the roadmap to an unhealthy lifestyle as an adult is laid out in front of the children.

By the time a student graduates from high school, the average individual will have spent between 15,000 and 18,000 hours watching television and only 12,000 hours in school. Mr. Wizard was good, but not that good.

The Hopkins University findings are backed by research by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. The CDC finds as television viewing rises, time spent exercising outdoors declines. This is especially true among young girls ages 14 to 16.

And those who spent more than six hours per day affixed on the television were more than five times likely to be overweight to the point of having obesity health-related issues. What can we do? KidsHealth offers tips to help control viewing habits:

- Be selective about what you watch. No one is advocating abolishing the television, but control the amount of time you and your children are viewing. It’s an easy step to just power it off and go for a walk.
- Plan your viewing. Making a favorite



1

Tiss the Season

Grafenwoehr Army Post Office 475-6333

To ensure your packages, sent to the United States, are delivered before Christmas, please mail them no later than these dates.

SAM (Space Available Mail) 2 x 5 weeks
20 NOVEMBER

PAL (Parcel Air Lift) Aprox. 2 weeks
4 DECEMBER

Priority Parcels & First Class Letters Aprox. 5 to 10 Days
11 DECEMBER

Express Mail 2 or 3 Days, Depending on Zip-Code
18 DECEMBER

Vilseck, Hohenfels students to study science during live talk with astronauts

DoDDS-E

Students in 15 DoDDS-Europe high schools will step a little closer to the stars Nov. 14 when they participate in a day of science instruction coordinated by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Technology, NASA and the European Space Agency.

The Nov. 14 program, undertaken as part of International Education Week, will include instruction under the guidance of NASA and ESA

representatives, as well as DoDDS-E science and math teachers and instruction specialists.

Participating students will receive instruction in a range of scientific and mathematical subjects, including, but not limited to:

- earth and space science
- physics
- physics applications
- biology
- chemistry
- chemistry applications

Each school will determine the specific subject matter to be taught and the level of participation in the day’s events.

The highlight of the day will be the live Webcast of a 20-minute discussion between students gathered at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., with astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

DoDDS-E students will observe that exchange live via an Internet Webcast.

ESA participation in the day’s program is a result of the presence of an ESA astronaut in the crew of the space station.

Participating schools represent all five DoDDS-Europe Districts:

Bavaria District: Hohenfels High School, Vilseck High School, Würzburg High School

Heidelberg District: Heidelberg High School, Mannheim High School, Wiesbaden High School

Isles District: Brussels High School, Menwith Hill High School

Kaiserslautern HS: Bitburg High School, Kaiserslautern High School, Ramstein High School

Mediterranean District: Aviano High School, Naples High School, Rota High School, Vicenza High School

All other DoDDS-E schools can tune in to the live Webcast with the astronauts as they wish.

International Education Week is scheduled to take place this year Nov. 13-18.

USAG G, JMTC civilians honored Oct. 20

Staff report

More than 100 German and American civilian employees were honored by U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and the Joint Multinational Training Command during an Oct. 20 ceremony at the Tower View Restaurant.

Employees were distinguished for their length of service, ranging from 20-40 years, to the U.S. Army.

In addition, the following employees received honors and monetary awards for their improvement suggestions:

Markus Nickl, of the Grafenwoehr Fire Department, received \$200, \$500, and \$200.

Robert Riedl, of the Grafenwoehr Distribution Center, received \$250.

Reinhold Meier, of the Grafenwoehr Range Support branch, received \$100.

30 Years:

Mr. Guenther Ernst	7th Army
JMTC Mantel	
Mr. Ramiro Talavera	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. John B. Roney	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Willie C. Brown	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Roland Hoessl	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Alfred Reinsch	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Anthony F. Rowland	USAG Grafenwoehr
Ms. Sieglinde Schedl	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Eugene Campbell	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Melvin S. Gonzales	USAG Grafenwoehr
Ms. Petra Grimm	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Karl-Heinz Schrembs	27th Transport Div
Mr. Martin Hautmann	Weiden
Ms. Hildegard Chittick	MEDCOM Amberg
Mr. Kimberland M. Bathgate	Grafenwoehr
Mr. Waldemar Haibach	CHRA Weiden
Mr. Rainer Dressel	CHRA Weiherhammer
Mr. Alois Farnbauer	CHRA Mantel

25 Years:

Mr. Bernhard Wolfram	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Gerhard Seuffert	7th Army
JMTC Dittelbrunn	
Mr. Don K. Olson	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Michael H. Gomez	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Michael Pemp	7th Army
JMTC Pressath	
Mr. Georg Schraml	7th Army
JMTC Kulmain	
Mr. Edwin Schilhansl	7th Army
JMTC Weiden	
Mr. Anton Stopfer	7th Army
Runkenreuth	
Mr. Konrad Walberer	7th Army
JMTC Weiden	

Mr. Herbert Gradl	7th Army
Bayreuth	
Mr. Hans Fritzmann	7th Army
JMTC Wildenreuth	
Mr. Georg Fraunholz	7th Army
JMTC Sassenreuth	
Mr. Willi Biermeier	7th Army
JMTC Trabitz	
Mr. Martin Dippl	7th Army
Pressath	
Mr. Georg Wehrl	7th Army
Altzirkendorf	
Mr. Guenter Soellner	7th Army
JMTC Auerbach	
Mr. Guenther Schmidt	7th Army
JMTC Weiden	
Mr. Lorenz Reiss	7th Army
Kirchentumbach	
Mr. Guenther Dirscherl	7th Army
JMTC Auerbach	
Mr. Walter Werner	7th Army
JMTC Schlammersdorf	
Mr. Albert Weiss	7th Army
Huetten	
Mr. Johann Gruenwald	7th Army
JMTC Eschenbach	
Mr. Gerhard Goetz	7th Army
JMTC Eschenbach	
Mr. Franz Arnold	7th Army
JMTC Zettlitz	
Mr. Heinz Schulz	7th Army
Tanzfleck	
Mr. Max-Josef Plannerer	7th Army
JMTC Mehlmiesel	
Mr. Johann Gebhard	7th Army
JMTC Pressath	
Mr. Dieter Held	7th Army
Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Otto Geier	7th Army
JMTC Pegnitz	
Mr. Michael Lindner	7th Army
JMTC Waldthurn	
Mr. Alfred Zilbauer	7th Army
JMTC Vohenstrauss	
Mr. Peter Roesler	7th Army
Vohenstrauss	
Mr. Reiner Arnold	7th Army
JMTC Neustadt am Kulm	
Mr. Richard Wuert	7th Army
JMTC Windischeschenbach	
Mr. Josef Geier	7th Army
JMTC Pegnitz	
Mr. Thomas Schwarze	7th Army
JMTC Grafenwoehr	
Mr. Johann Lippert	7th Army
JMTC Etzenricht	

Mr. Karlheinz Behr	7th Army
JMTC Irchenrieth	
Mr. Hans-Peter Hirmer	7th Army
JMTC Amberg	
Mr. Josef Meckl	7th Army
Weiden	
Mr. Horst Heim	7th Army
Kohlberg	
Mr. Peter Kurz	7th Army
Vilseck	
Mr. Justin Winter	7th Army
Leuchtenberg	
Mr. Hans Rueppel	7th Army
JMTC Koenigstein	
Mr. Viktor Bader	USAG Grafenwoehr
Ms. Christel March	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Albert Bauer	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Alfons Poellmann	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Franz Kugler-Bierstedt	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Falk-Ruediger Huegel	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Guenther Schipke	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Hermann Lehl	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Manfred Hecht	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Herbert Salavs	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Peter Speth	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Karl Meier	USAG Grafenwoehr
Ms. Ulrike Schwarzmeier	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Josef Kausler	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Leonhard Proelss	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Alfons Messer	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Werner Danzer	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Egon Hausner	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Robert Neumann	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Bernd Bertelshofer	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Michael Eggerts	USAG Grafenwoehr

Mr. Gerhard Reil	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Helmut Wittich	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Martin Kick	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Karl-Heinz Hein	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Helmut Riebel	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Peter Hoerl	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Wilhelm Ertl	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Steven P. Eckert	69th Signal Btl
Mr. Albert Panzer	69th Signal Btl
Mr. Anton Schmidt	Contracting Command
Ms. Claudia-Maria Hohlruether	266th Finance Cmd
Mr. Maximilian Pemp	Trabitz
Mr. Markus Huemmer	Eschenbach
Ms. Maria Pausch	Vilseck
Mr. Peter Goltz	Vilseck
Mr. Manfred Weiss	Vilseck
Ms. Elvira Uschold	USATMC-EUROPE
Ms. Elisabeth Heinisch	USATMC-EUROPE
Mr. Josef Kohl	USATMC-EUROPE
Mr. Karlheinz Fuchs	USATMC-EUROPE
Ms. Cornelia-Maria Schatz	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Anton Gnauck	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Erwin Mittlmeier	USAG Grafenwoehr
Ms. Marion Roeder	USAG Grafenwoehr
Mr. Josef Lang	BASOPS Maint Ctr
Ms. Franziska Malauulu	MEDCOM Amberg
Mr. Manfred Bosanyi	Kainsricht

Gas prices decrease

AAFES Europe

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is announcing a decrease in gasoline prices for the month of November.

The average cost of a gallon of gasoline in the United States has been falling due to an oversupply of crude oil: good news for drivers.

To establish November prices, AAFES used the two-week DoE average from the weeks ending 16 and 23 October per the discretionary authority in the OCONUS gas pricing policy.

AAFES leadership can exercise discretion when setting prices at the first of the month only when extraordinary circumstances impact the Department of Energy average.

As with the month of October, the swift decreases in U.S. gas prices led AAFES Command to intervene and base November’s prices on the previous two week average instead of the established policy of a four- or five-week average.

“The result of AAFES military leadership’s intervention to utilize the previous two week average brings gas prices for authorized OCONUS customers, not affected by “floor”

pricing, more in line with current U.S. prices.” said Jack Morris, the senior vice president for AAFES Europe.

The AAFES overseas gas pricing policy is to set prices based on the U.S. Department of Energy’s monthly average for each grade of gasoline in the continental U.S., plus the unique incremental costs which AAFES incurs in each overseas market.

These incremental costs are bona fide costs that include (where applicable) costs related to the gas coupon management program, labor costs, depreciation, and other expenses associated with providing gasoline to our customers overseas.

AAFES reminds customers to check their gas coupons before filling up at ESSO or ARAL stations .

The Series 7 POL gas coupons for Germany and The Netherlands expired Sept. 30 and are no longer accepted at stations on the economy.

These coupons are, however, valid at AAFES gas stations on base or post until the end of the year. Series (8) POL Coupons are available at AAFES facilities now. Customers may request refunds for unused Series 7 POL coupons, as long as they are still attached to the original booklet, at any AAFES facility, until Sept. 30, 2007.

You are cordially invited to the

2006 Grafenfels Holiday Ball

December 15, 2006

Max Roger Halle, Weiden

Buffet, Dinner and Dancing

Doors open at 18:30 hrs

28 Euro per person

Open to all DOD/Military Personnel

Contact your Unit SI for tickets

Life at Garrison Grafenwoehr



Photo by Sue Bluhm

Instructor Sensei Alonzo “Skip” Mention perfects a student’s technique Oct. 19. Mention offers children’s and adult karate classes at Grafenwoehr and Vilseck. Call DSN 475-9007 for more information.



Photo by Paula Guzman

Capt. Christopher Moberg, company commander of Company B, 173d BSB, Bamberg, Germany, conducts dismounted security patrol as Capt. Ian Palmer, troop commander for Troop A, 1-91 Cavalry, Schweinfurt, reacts to contact from a building during 173rd Airborne BCT training at Ubendorf Village, Hohenfels, Oct. 4.



Photo by Paula Guzman

Garrison Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations kicked off fiesta-style with the Mercedes Flamenco dance group, Latino music, educational displays, domino contest, and children’s activities at the Grafenwoehr Fitness Center Oct. 21.



Photo by Sue Bluhm

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Director of Emergency Services Maj. Robert Ray listens to a community member during the Oct. 18 town hall Q&A session.



Staff Sergeant Juan Aue, (Fire Direction Senior Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems) team chief, Range Control, reenlisted into Indefinite Status to complete in-place consecutive overseas tours at 7th Army JMTC, Grafenwoehr, Germany. U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker performed the reenlistment while visiting Grafenwoehr Range 211 Oct. 23.

Photo by Paula Guzman



Photo by Sue Bluhm

Parents, teachers, and children from Grafenwoehr Elementary School hit the trails Oct. 13 during their annual 5K and 10K Volksmarch around the city of Grafenwoehr.

Pay raise one step closer to compensating increasingly educated service members

by **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

With the 2.2 percent across-the-board pay raise that is part of the Fiscal 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Department will reach its goal to bring military basic pay to the 70th percentile when compared to civilians with comparable education and training, a top DoD compensation official said.

The goal grew out of the 9th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation released in 2002, which concluded that basic pay did not adequately compensate an increasingly educated military force.

Employment cost index

Virginia Penrod, DoD's director of military compensation, said the 2.2 percent across-the-board pay raise - which kicks in Jan. 1, matches the employment cost index for the year.

ECI measures the growth in private-sector wages. Current law ties any military pay raise to the index.

Also helping DoD reach its goal, she said, is targeted pay raises for

servicemembers in grades E-5 to E-7 and warrant officers that go into effect April 1.

Inequitable pay increase

But compensation is more than simply basic pay.

While servicemembers have seen a basic pay increase since 2001 of roughly 28 percent, basic allowance for housing has risen over 50 percent, Penrod said. "As far as compensation (is concerned), we think we have it right," she said in an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

When officials talk about compensation, they include basic allowance for housing, basic allowance for subsistence, basic pay and the tax advantage for not having allowances taxed.

20 military bonuses

DoD has more than 20 different types of bonuses, and the act enables the department to pay these bonuses through the fiscal year. It also puts some changes into effect for those bonuses.

For example, the act has increased the amount of the bonus paid to

service members who transfer between armed forces. An airman transferring to the Army is now eligible to receive a \$10,000 bonus after serving three years in the new service.

Previously, Congress capped that bonus at \$2,500. Penrod said that bonus will be used to get sailors and airmen to sign up for the Army.

Cancelling debt

The act also raises the ceiling of debt DoD is allowed to cancel.

"Soldiers serving in Iraq, for example, receive hostile fire pay, family separation pay and hardship pay," Penrod said.

"If the service member is injured and medevaced to Germany, sometimes mistakes happen and the pays are not cancelled," she said. "The soldier now has a debt."

If later, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is processing the service member for medical separation or retirement, that debt shows up, she explained, officials can now waive up to \$10,000 of debt incurred through no fault of the service member.

Keeping troops longer

The act also extends the military pay table to 40 years. This is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's military transformation effort.

Senior officers, warrant officers and noncommissioned officers are a valuable trained resource to the department, Penrod said, and this gives selected service members an incentive to remain in the military longer.

40-year retirement

The pay table has regular longevity increases from 30 to 40 years of service, and a service member retiring after 40 years of service would receive 100 percent of basic pay.

Penrod said the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation - meeting now - will look at ways to simplify DoD pays.

"We have over 60 special incentive pays, and it's difficult to keep up with," she said.

"We hope to simplify our pays and put them in basically five categories; it would make it easier to manage the pays."

National Defense Authorization Act (2007)

Enables DoD to pay more than 20 different types of bonuses throughout the fiscal year.

Increased the amount of the bonus paid to troops who transfer between services -- \$10,000 for airmen transferring to the Army.

Raises the ceiling of debt DoD is allowed to cancel -- now up to \$10,000 incurred through no fault of Soldier.

Extends the military pay table. Service members retiring after 40 years will receive 100 percent of basic pay.

'Veterans Pride' just announced

Officials hoping initiative will kindle patriotism

by *American Forces Press Service*

Leaders of major veterans organizations joined Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson Oct. 18 in Washington, D.C. in launching an effort to "kindle a new spark of patriotism" by asking men and women who have served in the military to wear their medals on Veterans Day.

Wearing medals and campaign ribbons focuses public pride and attention on the veterans as individuals with personal histories of service and sacrifice for the common good, according to Nicholson.

"We are announcing a 'Veterans Pride Initiative' to remind Americans of the pride and honor in the hearts of those who have served," Nicholson said at a news conference at VA headquarters.

"We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security," he said. "Wearing their medals will demonstrate the deep pride our veterans have in their military service and bring Veterans Day home to all American citizens."

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand, countries who honor the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on April 25 each year, VA officials said.

Nicholson said he hopes a U.S. tradition will ensue to emulate this pride in being a veteran and in honoring the nation's veterans.

Visit <http://www.va.gov/veteranspride/>, for more information on the campaign, to find out how to replace mislaid medals, and to learn how to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled.

Unmanned aircraft key to future operations

by **Air Force Capt. ELIZABETH CULBERTSON**
Special to American Forces Press Service

"Decision superiority" attained with the help of unmanned aircraft will play a key role in future air, space and cyberspace missions for the Air Force and NATO, the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe said Oct. 18.

Acting in his role as director of the multinational Joint Air Power Competence Center, Air Force Gen. William T. Hobbins spoke at the annual JAPCC Air Power Conference last month.

Hobbins, whose other hats include commander of the Allied Air Component Command at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and commander of the U.S. European Command air component, addressed an audience of more than 200 academic, industry and military professionals.

Beginning with a discussion of the history of unmanned aircraft systems, or UASs, the general highlighted the circumstances that led to their further development.

The decrease in electronics cost, along with increases in computing capability and miniaturization combined with improved communications and sensor capabilities, the general explained, leading to greater availability.

"The global picture on unmanned systems changed dramatically," he said. "The information age had now found its way to military UASs. It was perfect timing, too. ... We needed situational awareness at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of war. We needed a powerful force multiplier. The unmanned aircraft provided the means to exploit the new, nonlinear battle space."

The results, said the general, can be seen in the numbers. More than 40 countries are operating more than 80 types of unmanned aerial vehicles. The U.S. has at least 18 types and is operating 3,000 unmanned aircraft.

"Growth is not limited to the United States," he said. "The growth of UAS is occurring around the world. From the year 2000 to 2010, unmanned aircraft are expected to grow from 4 percent of total funding for all aircraft to 31 percent."

The reason for the extent of growth, said Hobbins, is that people are discovering that unmanned systems can accomplish a multitude of missions. The list of missions has expanded from the traditional reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition missions to 36 nontraditional applications, including digital mapping and day and night strike.

"Certainly in the future of unmanned aircraft systems, there are more missions out there; we just haven't figured them out yet," he said.

Current figures from the JAPCC indicate that 17 NATO nations have more than 25 operational



Photo by Spc. James B. Smith Jr.

U.S. Soldiers load a RQ-7 Shadow 200 tactical unmanned aerial vehicle onto its launcher at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in preparation for a mission over the Baqubah, Iraq, area in September 2004 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

models of aircraft, with more than 3,600 operational unmanned aircraft in NATO.

"With all these aircraft flying around, ... the issues are air space management, command and control, integration and interoperability and force development," the general said.

A key part of addressing NATO UAS issues is integration, he said. Integrating airspace — rather than segregating, coordinating or synchronizing — avoids inefficiencies to forces. Integrating command and control allows commanders to assimilate, task, prioritize, analyze, fuse and interpret UAV products in real time. Proper integration improves interoperability efforts.

"Integration must go beyond airspace," Hobbins said. "It's got to go to the core of operations. The information from (UASs) could, and I contend, should populate the global information grid, to the maximum extent possible."

Systems of systems can provide the appropriate information at the right time to those who need it. This would correspond to improve situational awareness at all levels of warfare. ... It's about decision superiority."

Hobbins also addressed the future of UASs in NATO. NATO is acquiring the first integrated manned-unmanned aircraft system — the Alliance Ground Surveillance system — which he said will have radar that detects moving

ground targets. The AGS is expected to have an initial orbit capability in 2012.

"NATO is heading straight into the unmanned realm, and is leading the way with this first-ever type of system. As NATO transforms itself so that it can meet the needs of tomorrow, what NATO needs is to handle unmanned aircraft just as if they were manned," he said.

The general described his vision for future UAS capabilities.

"We need for unmanned aircraft to act like manned aircraft," he said. "We need unmanned aircraft to be tasked like manned aircraft. We need unmanned aircraft to fly in strike packages with manned aircraft. We need to refuel them in the air."

"We should be capable of flying both manned and unmanned platforms together, to include multiple unmanned airframes controlled by one operator," the general continued. "And we need commanders to have the confidence that unmanned or manned, it doesn't make a difference, as they are equally effective," he said.

In an attempt to consolidate and synthesize the many ideas, the JAPCC is developing a UAS flight plan.

The flight plan will review UASs in NATO, identify gaps in requirements, gaps in capabilities, and suggest possible solutions and organizations best suited to solve the problems.

**Don't forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News.
Look for it online at www.milcom.de**

Community Spotlight

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Post offices update hours, holiday mail guidelines

To accommodate holiday mailing needs the post offices (not the CMRs) in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, and Hohenfels will extend their hours as follows from Nov. 18-Dec. 22.:

Mon.-Wed. and Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
(Incoming mail delivery will continue on Saturdays until Jan. 6.)
Appointments for mailing can be made by calling your local APO at DSN 476-2581 for Vilseck, DSN 475-6333 for Grafenwoehr, and DSN 466-2887 for Hohenfels.

All three post offices will be closed Nov. 10 for Veteran’s Day, Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving, and Dec. 24-25 for the Christmas holiday.

On Dec. 23 the post offices will be closed for outgoing mail, but incoming mail will be received and distributed to the community mail rooms.

Space Available Mail is the least expensive service and travels by air to one of five ports of entry: New York, Miami, Chicago, Dallas or San Francisco, then by ground transportation to its destination.

The deadline for space available mail to get to its destination by Christmas is Nov. 20.

Parcel Airlift travels by space available air to the closest commercial airport to the destination that the United States Postal Service uses. The deadline for PAL mail is Dec. 4.

First-Class Mail is used for letters and cards weighing 13 ounces or less. The deadline for first-class mail is Dec. 11.

Priority Mail travels by priority air service to the closest commercial airport to the destination that the United States Postal Service uses. The deadline for Priority Mail service is Dec. 11.

Express Mail Military Service is the fastest and most expensive service offered. The deadline for delivery by Christmas for EMMS is Dec. 18.

German stores closed today - All Saints Day - for holiday

Allerheiligen (All Saints Day) is a holiday in Bavaria and a few other German states.

Be aware that all stores and authorities on the economy will be closed, and local national staff will be off.

Community Schools Update

Check with your school for details:
Tomorrow: Picture Day at GES
Friday: Teacher Work Day, no school for students
Tuesday: Veterans Day Assembly
Nov. 8-9: Parent-teacher conferences at VES and GES
Nov. 9: Parent-teacher conferences at GMS and VHS
Nov. 10: No school - Veterans Day
Nov. 23-24: No school, Thanksgiving

Shoppette hours change today

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck shoppette hours will change, beginning today, as follows:
Grafenwoehr
Mon.-Sat., 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun., 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Vilseck
New weekend hours:
Open 5:30 a.m. Fri., closed 9 p.m. Sun.

Reserve your space today for November ski trips to Austria

Calling all skiers and snowboarders! The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Ski Club meetings are held twice a month at Vilseck’s Yesterdays Club.
The November meetings will take place tomorrow and Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
There is still time to get info and reserve a space for the November trips.
The Nov. 9-12 Veterans Day trip will be to Kitzsteinhorn Glacier, Austria. Contact grafskiclub@hotmail.com or call CIV 0160-99182587. Payment deadline is Nov. 6.
Stubaital, Austria, is the location for the Thanksgiving trip Nov 22-26. The trip captain is Michele Wolff DSN at DSN 466-2783, CIV 09472-83-2783, or e-mail: michele.wolff@us.army.mil.
Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.grafskiclub.

50megs.com or e-mailing grafskiclub@hotmail.com

Mandatory substance abuse training available on Intranet

Per AR 600-85, every Soldier within the USAG Grafenwoehr and USAG Hohenfels is required to receive four hours of substance abuse awareness training each year.
In addition, per AR 600-85 every DA civilians are required to receive three hours of substance abuse awareness training each year.
Online training can be found on the Intranet at <https://intranet.grafenwoehr.army.mil>.

Motorcycle group meetings

The garrison motorcycle group will meet at the Thai restaurant in Grafenwoehr as follows:
Tomorrow, Nov. 16, and 30
Dec. 14 and 28

New Saturday Thrift Shop hours at Grafenwoehr

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop is now open the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with consignments taken from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

CYS Harvestfest scheduled Saturday, open to community

Enjoy games, activities, and fun with CYS at the Vilseck School Age Services from noon - 3 p.m.

Girl Scouts offer unique, rewarding experience

Girls kindergarten through twelfth grade can register for the Girl Scout troops in Vilseck and Grafenwoehr.
USA Girl Scouts Overseas-North Atlantic serves girls who want to enjoy the same excitement, fun, and adventures in Girl Scouting as stateside Girl Scouts.
In every part of the globe, Girl Scouts are making new friends, learning about other cultures, building community, and having fun.
With other girls in your troop or group you can do some amazing things in Girl Scouting, such as:
■ Rappelling, zip lining, or traverse wall climbing.
■ Riding horses, swimming, or camping.
■ Sports like tennis, golf, or soccer.
■ Leadership classes, international travel and college scholarships for teen girls.

For more information, call Vilseck CIV 09662-700754 or DSN 476-2655 / CIV 09662-83-2655 or Graf DSN 475-6679 / CIV 09641-83-6679.

2006 Holiday Ball scheduled, unit S-1s selling tickets

Members of U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr/Hohenfels, JMTC, JMRC, and 2SCR are invited to attend the 2006 Grafenwoehr Holiday Ball at the Max Reger Halle in Weiden Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
All DoD employees and family members are invited, to include local national employees from Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels.
The cost is 28 Euros. Tickets can be purchased through your unit S-1.
Dress is formal. All service members should wear dress blues, mess dress, or Class A uniform with bowtie.
There will be a buffet dinner and cash bar.

FBLA seeking presenters for Nov. 8 leadership workshop

The DoDDS-Europe Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America is seeking Workshop presenters for the 2006 Fall Leadership Conference.
The event is Nov. 8 at The Village Pavilion, in Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg.
The workshops will be offered between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., with a lunch break during the day.
For more information, e-mail daniel.dittmeier@eu.dodea.edu.

Grafenwoehr Church seeks part-time child care workers

If you are looking for a part-time job and you like hanging out with some awesome kids, this is the job for you.
The Grafenwoehr Church is looking for childcare workers to work during Bible studies, church service, and other activities.
The position pays \$10 an hour.

For more information, call Chaplain Rizer at DSN 475-6380 or CIV 09641-83-6389, or visit Bldg. 555.

Bank hours change

The Grafenwoehr Community Bank will change operating hours as follows:
■ **Today** for All Saint’s Day- Closed
■ **Nov. 8** for staff training- Open 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
■ **Nov. 23** for Thanksgiving Holiday- Open from 9 a.m. - noon.

Annual VFW scholarship competition deadline today

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students participate in the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition and the Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest, which award more than \$3.4 million in scholarships and incentives.
The Voice of Democracy scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12 that provides scholarships.

Patriot’s Pen, a youth-essay writing contest, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7, and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy.
The entry deadline is today.
For more information, visit <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtylevelc&cid=1836&cfid=3209333&cftoken=20488681>.

Volunteer shoppers needed, findings to help set COLA

Stars and Stripes reports that volunteer shoppers from U.S. military bases in several European nations are getting ready to price products and services in a survey that contributes in setting the cost of living allowance supplement paid to service members.
Each year, military bases conduct a Retail Price Survey, which, in part, helps set the COLA supplement military members receive.
Those interested in becoming volunteer shoppers should contact their local COLA coordinators.
For details on the RPS, including the months each base is scheduled to conduct surveys, visit <http://141.116.74.201/cola/appm/appm.pdf>.

Marriage Enrichment seminar set tomorrow

A Marriage Enrichment Seminar will be held at Vilseck Chapel tomorrow from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Child care and meal will be provided. Call Chaplain Nielsen at DSN 476-3276 to sign up.

AAFES holiday hours

AAFES facilities that will be affected by the German holiday today are as follows:
■ **Retail:**
Graf: Office Source: Closed
Car Care Center: Open for retail, no mechnic service

Vilseck:
Car Care Center: Open for retail, no mechnic service
Hohenfels:
Car Care Center: Open for retail and gas, no mechnic service
■ **Concessions:**
Graf: Closed
Hohenfels: Closed
TKS Open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Vilseck:
All Barber/Beauty, Optical L/DC and Alteration shops will be closed.

The TKS, Stop & Shop, Goldvitrine, Flower Shop, Photo Shop and Sword Shop will be open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Christian home educators support group meets in Graf

The Christian Home Educators Support Group meets every second Thursday monthly at the Graf library between 6 and 8 pm. Call CIV 09608-923-733 or terry.dawn@asamnet.de.

Learn home-buying basics during Nov. 13 VA loan class

Get the facts now, and buy the home later. Get the facts about VA home loans and what they cover, hidden move-in expenses, what to look for in a neighborhood, and much more.
Attend the Home Buying Basics class 5:30–6:30 p.m. at the Vilseck ACS office Nov. 13.
Call CIV 09662-83-2650 or DSN 476-2650 to register.

Hohenfels Briefs

Flamenco classes in session

Flamenco class will now be on Monday and Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. Sign up at the post gym.
For more info, call DSN 466-2883.

Library’s weekly preschool story time now in session

The Hohenfels Library is holding their weekly preschool story time every Thursday at 10 a.m.
We will read books, discuss different subjects, and offer fun crafts for children ages 3 to 5. Come and find out about this great service. For more information, call DSN 466-1740.

Sign up for tae kwon do

If you are interested in taking a Thursday evening tae kwon do class from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., sign up at the post gym or e-mail jason.rocha@us.army.mil.
Smoothie Zone offering after-school specials
Treat the kids to a nutritious fruit-filled Smoothie at the Smoothie Zone located at the Hohenfels Post Gym, Bldg. 88.
From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., order a 20 or

32 ounce and get a 12 ounce for half price. Kids can enjoy drinks such as Peachie Beachie, Tropical Breeze, or Berry-D-Licious.
All drinks for kids are supplement free. Parents, however, can enjoy their drinks with energy, fat burner, or protein supplements.

Spinning classes with Maria Diaz available at post gym.

Spinning classes are now available Monday at 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Tuesday at 4 p.m.; Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Thursday at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Friday at 9:30 a.m.
Cost is \$3 per class or \$30 per month, \$40 for group rate (18 participants needed for group rate to apply).
For more information, call the post gym at DSN466-2883.

CFC underway, contact your unit representative to donate

The 2006 Combined Federal Campaign has begun. Donate today and make a world of difference. See your unit CFC representative for more information, or contact Sgt. Washington at DSN 466-4103.

Cub Scouts seeking first through fifth graders

It is not too late to join in the Cub Scouting fun! There is room for first through fifth graders.
For more information, visit www.geocities.com/cubscoutsinhohenfels. There you will find information about the program and upcoming events in Hohenfels.
If you cannot find what you are looking for at the Pack 303 site, contact Andrea Neill at cubscoutsinhohenfels@yahoo.com.

Sixt Car Rental changes hours

Effective today, Sixt Car Rental will close on Saturdays.

Do you have writing and pagination experience?

Would you like to work for an award winning publication?

Full and part-time positions available.

Call 475-7113.

50 Vendors

Located in the Post Gym (Bldg. 88) & CAC (Bldg. 40)

Hohenfels Winter Bazaar



November 17–19
Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit the HCSC Web site:
www.hcsc.homestead.com

Unique Gift Ideas

Antiques, Wine, Cheese, Crystal, Pottery, Rugs, Furniture, Stained Glass, & Much More



Germans and change: a love-hate relationship

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist-

I still remember the riddle one of my first American coworkers gave me to solve after I had moved to the U.S.

She asked me: “How do you make a German mad?” The answer was: “Just change something!”

Now we all know that Germans are very traditional people, but just how far will they take this notion? Are Germans really a nation of people that is dragged, kicking and screaming, into every new age?

As far as **technology** is concerned, it seems that Germany drags behind the rest of the developed world. Statistics from the year 2000 show that the U.S. had the fifth highest computer ownership while Germany ranked fifteenth.

Surprisingly, when one considers where the most computing power was in the early 1900s, Germany then becomes a close second behind the United States. Most people think that the Brits or Americans spearheaded computer inventions, but it is a fact that the world’s first programmable computer was built by Konrad Zuse, a German civil engineer, in 1914.

On the **political stage**, Germans do not change leaders as often as Americans, who have term limits for their presidents. Chancellor Helmut Kohl had one of the longest tenures as a head of state. He was in power for 16 years (1982 – 1998).

Recently, however, Germans have elected their first-ever female chancellor—Angela Merkel, while Americans are still waiting for their first female president.

A big change came during German **reunification** in 1990.

How did Germans deal with that extreme event? At first there was great joy, but as soon as the excitement died down the true nature of the people came out.

Many Easterners who had desperately wanted to enjoy the freedom and capitalism of the West soon longed to return to the old comfortable ways of the German Democratic Republic.

Exasperated West Germans who felt they were forced bear the huge financial burden of the reunification were often overheard saying: “I wish they would put the wall back up!”



Photo by Staff Sgt. F. Lee Corkan, USAF

On December 22, 1989, a crowd celebrates atop the Berlin Wall following the official opening of the Brandenburg Gate. The fall of the wall forced Germans in the East and the West to face and adapt to a myriad of social and political change.

By now the fronts have softened a little, but you might still hear the occasional reference to “Ossis” and “Wessis” (negative terms for people from the former East or West).

In the **religious** world, we see that many Germans stick with old traditions, regardless of whether they agree with them or not. This is made clear by the comment of an elderly Bavarian man: “I don’t believe in God and I think all preachers are liars, but I won’t officially leave the church because I want someone to say a few words over my grave.”

On the other hand, Germany did produce one of the most notorious religious rebels—Martin Luther, a man who started the reformation that is still celebrated in this country every Oct. 31 (Reformation Day).

The German **education system** has often been criticized as old-fashioned and very resistant to change.

In German schools, students are placed in different types of school, according to their

academic performance very early in life (from the fourth grade).

Unfortunately, it is very hard to switch from one type of school to another later on. This makes it extremely difficult for so-called “late bloomers.” **A perfect example** of the problem with this system is a man who was labeled a “medium achiever” and never got the chance to go to a university in Germany.

He decided to learn English and enrolled in college classes in the U.S. He received his BA and went on to earn an MBA. He eventually started his own company and is now a multi-millionaire.

He is convinced that he would not have been able to achieve this much success in his homeland because of the rigid educational system.

Some **female students experience** a similar fate, as some parents cling to the notion that it is a waste of time for a girl to attend a university since she will only be a wife and mother anyway.

This happened to me, and I am now what you call a “re-entry student,” working on and hoping to obtain my BA just before my own children go to college.

The bright side is that things are starting to change in Germany. Several recent studies in Europe have shown the relatively low achievement of German students compared to kids in other countries. In response, the Bavarian government has decreased the number of years college-bound students must attend school from 13 to 12 years.

The changes in **everyday life** in Germany have also become quite obvious to me.

I never thought my tiny hometown would ever boast a McDonald’s, but in 1994 one of American’s most renowned restaurant chain opened in Neustadt near Coburg.

I still remember the first time I stopped by with my parents. My husband and I were going to grab a quick bite to eat, but my father refused to enter “that place” and waited for us outside.

My mother walked in with us, looking at the inside of this “curious” restaurant as if she were sightseeing.

Neither of my parents tried any of the food. Now, 12 years later, my father admits to having bought chicken nuggets at the drive-thru, but he still refuses to go inside or eat any of “that stuff on these squishy rolls.” As of publication time, my mother had still not tasted anything from McDonald’s.

Overall, I believe that it might take us Germans a little longer to accept change and progress, and when we give in to the inevitable, we often do so grudgingly and wishing for the “good old days.” However, this phenomenon can be found elsewhere in the world and as long as the younger generation is always looking to break with old traditions and eager to embrace new views, I think Germany will be just fine.

As for myself, I have to say that I did not cope well with change at first but 17 years as an Army wife has made me quite adaptable. I am, nevertheless, looking forward to my husband’s retirement and a life without constant moves and changes of scenery.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.

Celebrate fall with a delicious carrot cake

Recipe and photo by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Carrot cake is appreciated as a healthy treat in many countries, so it is no surprise that Germany has its own version of this classic favorite.

While the basic idea is the same, there are a few important differences between the American carrot cake you might know and love, and the German variety you find served here.

Both varieties feature shredded carrots, as well as nuts, but this is where the similarity ends.

While Americans favor nuts like pecans and walnuts, most Germans will reach for hazelnuts and almonds.

American carrot cake is usually baked with many spices that influence the taste accordingly. Germans tend to use a smaller amount of cinnamon, if they use any spices at all, resulting in a very mild taste. To add a little extra flavor, Germans like to add citrus juice or peels.

Lastly, the U.S. version is topped off with a rich and creamy cream cheese frosting, but Germans prefer to simply dust it with powdered sugar, melted apricot jam glaze, or confectionary sugar glaze with a few tablespoons of orange or lemon juice.

However you slice it, the result is a moist and delicious cake. I hope you will give the following recipe a try soon and take comfort in the knowledge that there is no added fat from butter or margarine to feel guilty about, only the healthy fats from the nuts.

Guten Appetit!

Karottenkuchen (German Carrot Cake)

- 3 medium carrots, peeled and finely shredded
- 5 eggs, separated
- 1 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. orange peel
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 3 cups finely ground hazelnuts
- ¾ cup flour
- 3½ tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 Tbs. confectionary sugar

Glaze:
2 cups confectionary sugar
3 Tbs. orange juice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a mixing bowl, whisk egg yolks and sugar until foamy.

Add orange peel, orange juice, hazelnuts and shredded carrots. Stir until mixed.

Add flour and baking powder and mix well.

In a separate bowl, beat egg whites and confectionary sugar until stiff. Gently fold into carrot mixture.

Slowly fill a greased and floured springform pan with batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 – 60 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

Whisk confectionary sugar and orange juice until smooth.

Pour over the top of cool cake and spread down the sides.

Decorate as desired.

Yield: 12- 16 servings



A fall favorite the world over, carrot cake in Germany is cooked with fewer spices for a milder taste and is glazed or powdered with sugar, as opposed to the traditional cream cheese frosting. While Americans usually use pecans and walnuts in their cake, the German version usually contains hazelnuts and almonds.

Try something different ! If you like to cook and would like an authentic German recipe, e-mail the Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist for a recipe. Wondering how to recreate a delicious dish you ate in a village Gasthof or neighborhood cafe? Let us know. We’d like to feature the recipe in a future issue. Just e-mail us at martina.bias@us.army.mil. Guten Appetit!

Grafenwoehr's 535th Engineers come in third



Company E, 51st Infantry from Darmstadt took the team trophy ahead of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment from Illesheim and the 535th Engineer Company from Grafenwoehr. First Lt. Martin Peters of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment from Vicenza, Italy, won the men's individual event ahead of teammate Staff Sgt. Andrew Moore and Staff Sgt. John Daniels of the 123rd Main Support Battalion from Dexheim, Germany.



Spc. Marisela Guevara of the 7th Signal Battalion from Mannheim, Germany, was one of two females competing in the race.



1st Lt. Martin Peters of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment from Vicenza, Italy, heads to the finish line to win the men's individual event.

... at the 2006 U.S. Army Europe Combat Cross Country Championship

Photos by Raymond Santiago



Eighty-nine uniform-clad Soldiers carrying web gear and rifles ran the seven-kilometer course during the annual U.S. Army Europe Combat Cross Country championships Oct. 12 at Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne in Darmstadt.



Courtesy photo

Front row (from left): Chris Boggiano, Anthony Hall, Marlon Green, Odis Robinson, Israel Walker, James Hunt, Todd Middlebrook
Back row (from left): Jeff Bache, Moranda Alexander, Joseph Spencer, Larry Stratton, Eddie Facyson, Matt Caldwell, Jason Bugajski (Not pictured: Carl Clay)

HHC JMTC flag football champs on way to USAREUR competition with 5-0 standing

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, JMTC, flag football team became the regular season champs last week with a 5-0 record.

The team won the championship 4-1, and will represent Grafenwoehr at the U.S. Army Europe-level competition tomorrow through Sunday.

“ We were successful because we learned how to communicate well with each other on the field. ... Each of us dug deep ... and stepped up to do what we needed to do. ”

Larry Stratton
HHC JMTC team member

Troops have until Dec. 31 to apply for Soldier Show

Army Community and Family Support release

Soldier-entertainers have until Dec. 31 to apply for an audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Audio, video, lighting, costume and stage technicians also are needed.

Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers are eligible to participate in the song-and-dance extravaganza that provides “entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier” during a six-month tour of Army installations.

Submission packets must include:

- * A 10-minute DVD or VHS tape demonstrating your talent;
- * A copy of the results of your most recent

Army Physical Fitness Test, including height and weight;

- * A copy of your updated enlisted or officer record brief;
- * An entertainment resume;
- * A Department of the Army photo or similar photo in uniform; and
- * A letter of intent to release from your chain of command.

The show is a family-oriented production. Specific questions that are e-mailed to soldiershow@cfsc.army.mil will be answered. More than 200 Soldiers applied for 17 performer spots in the 2006 show.

Interested in high school baseball? Join us!

What: High School Baseball Organization Meeting (for the spring baseball season)

Who: Any high school student and/or any interested parents or sponsor (need coaches)

When: Nov. 16 (Thursday) at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Sgt. 1st Class Pollock's classroom (high school)

Why: To determine the level of interest in organizing a baseball team for Spring 2007

POC: Ken Stark, 475-1340; email: Kenneth.stark1@us.army.mil

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

Visit Web for electronic voting options

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information on registration and voting deadlines.

The site also offers a feature that lists electronic voting options for absentee voters, such as faxing or e-mailing ballots.

Because the mail system can be irregular, many states are instituting these electronic options for absentee voters, said Brunelli.

It's up to the individual states to decide what is acceptable, she said, but about 35 states allow a blank ballot to be faxed to overseas citizens, and about 26 states allow a voter to send back a voted ballot by fax.

These electronic options are helpful for troops deployed overseas, who often can't rely on the mail system, she noted.

"We're trying to make voting as easy as possible," she said. "It really isn't that complicated."

Electronic voting procedures do bring a certain amount of risk for confidentiality, Brunelli acknowledged.

Because of that, voters who wish to use electronic procedures have to sign a security waiver saying they understand the risks, she said.

If overseas citizens have not received their

ballots yet, they can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, which is available at U.S. embassies, consulates and military installations.

These ballots are accepted by all states and allow the citizen to vote for federal offices, she said.

However, if someone has completed the write-in ballot and receives a state ballot later, he or she should still complete and send in the state ballot, she said.

The military has about 1.4 million potential absentee voters, and federal employees serving overseas and other citizens living overseas bring that number up to a potential 6 million, said

Brunelli.

Absentee voters usually participate at high rates in presidential elections, but often the smaller elections, like next month's, don't get the participation they should, she said.

"It's important to vote in all elections," she said. "Mid-term elections are incredibly important to the military member, to your families.

"It's your chance to voice your opinion and make a determination on who's going to represent you," she said. It's an opportunity to participate in the electoral process; we want to encourage everyone to do that."

Community members represent alma maters

Local students learn about colleges first-hand

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it is a really great school. Charleston, S.C., is a great place to be," he said.

A recent graduate of Texas A&M, Katie Coward said she felt a sense of responsibility to represent her school at the college fair.

"I think high school students should know their options.

Talking to someone who has been (to the school) and experienced life in that community is so

important."

Representing her alma maters Eckerd College and Georgia State University, Michéne Hearth-Holmes, said that most of her college education was covered by scholarships.

Hearth-Holmes, who is also the welfare chairperson for the Vilseck Community and Spouses Club, wants high school students to know that they have endless possibilities.

"I want these kids to see that there is a variety of ways to go about their schooling and funding their schooling," she said.

At the end of the evening, students had bags filled with information about colleges and scholarships.

"We thank everyone for coming," said Peterson, "and thank all our volunteers, so much, for their help and hope all of you who were unable to attend will join us next year."



Seniors Simone Womack and Caroline Land learn more about the University of Missouri from representative Ken Starks at the 2006 VHS College Fair.

173rd Airborne BCT conducts historic jump at Graf

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Levesque, drop zone safety officer, confers with Air Force first lieutenants Nick Browning and Charles Kirkham, 37th Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, before the 700-Soldier jump by the 173rd Airborne BCT and elements of the German army Oct. 16.

Photo by
Arthur McQueen



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"It was a textbook operation," said Levesque, who in his five years with the 173rd has run more than 30 drop zones.

Levesque's team, which organized and oversaw the jump, included Air Force liaison officers from the 37th Airlift Squadron out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany; medics, and a detail of troops collecting parachutes on the drop zone.

"It was beautiful jump," said German Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Grillo. "It's a beautiful day to be a Soldier."

Grillo was one of 29 German cadre and students from the German Army Parachute School to join 173rd members on the second day's jump.

The combined jump enabled the German Soldiers to earn American jump wings – officially, the U.S. Army Parachutist Badge.

"We have been working with the German Airborne for quite a while, using their 34-foot

jump tower," Preysler said. "Thanks to them, we have been able to complete all our Basic Airborne Refresher training."

Preysler also noted the value of JMTC's facilities.

"This is one of the premier training spots in the world. It offers us a very large drop zone, and offers live fire training in conjunction with this airborne operation," he said. "We really couldn't do that anywhere but here."

One of many recently-assigned 173rd Soldiers who participated in the event, 1st Sgt. William Groene of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 1-91 Cav., critiqued the exercise with the enthusiasm of a relatively novice jumper and the perspective of a senior NCO's.

Groene, completing his first jump since he earned his wings in 1986, said, "I waited 20 years to do this again. I volunteered for it. This jump is getting us one step closer to being combat ready."

Raising the HEAT: New Humvee rollover simulator to be fielded

At least 116 Soldiers killed in vehicle accidents

by Sgt. CARLOS BURGER II
American Forces Press Service

Hoping to reduce casualties suffered in Humvee rollover accidents, Army officials are fielding a new simulator they hope will prevent deaths and injuries in such accidents.

Since the campaign in Iraq began, at least 116 soldiers have been killed and at least 132 injured in Humvee rollover accidents, according to Army statistics.

More than 8,000 soldiers have been trained so far in the Humvee Egress Awareness Training simulator, or HEAT, and Army Material Command and U.S. Army Central are building more than 30 of the simulators to be fielded across the theater in the months ahead.

The Forward Repair Activity here, a team of more than 50 civilians from Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala., and Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas, are building the simulators, said Ed Morris, FRA chief.

Morris said Lt. Col. John Herrmann, AMC support operations officer, coordinated the efforts to have the HEAT trainers built.

Camp Arifjan was chosen to undertake this project because the FRA is the only unit in the theater that has all the skill sets necessary to complete it, he said.

"We have depot-level machinists, welders and mechanics all at one location, and those are the skills necessary to build this. There's no worrying about having to deal with outside sources," he said.

Chief Warrant Officer Rikki Cox also with the FRA, came up with the idea for the simulator, said Chris Turner, a welder from Anniston depot.

Building the HEAT is a team effort, Turner said. It takes four days to make one, and it's built from ground up with spare parts and damaged Humvees.

The front and rear ends are cut off, and the Humvee cab is then fused to a base frame and hooked to an electric motor. Two other team members, Micah Garrett and Corey Jenkins, also from Anniston Depot, devote long hours daily to the completion of the HEAT simulators.

Both are responsible for the overall assembly of the base frame, sometimes working 16-hour shifts welding and drilling the base frame.

"It's a new experience being away from my family, but I'm glad to be here. I feel good about what I do. I feel that I'm helping the soldier in some way," said the 22-year-old Garrett, an Alpine, Ala., native.

Jenkins, a Mumfords, Ala., native and former soldier of 10 years, knows what the HEAT is worth to the modern soldier. "This simulator is good training for the soldiers," he said.

Although the HEAT carries a price tag of about \$33,000, Brandon McDaniel, a heavy mobile equipment repairer from Anniston Depot, said he thinks its benefit far outweighs its price.

"It's a good program. It's saving lives, and if it saves one life, then it's worth the money. Anything that we do, whether it's putting on body armor or this simulator, is worth it if it saves soldiers on the battlefield," he said.

The 30 HEATs are scheduled for completion this month, and once they are built, they will be sent to camps in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq and Qatar. The HEAT's lightweight design allows for air transport, if necessary, Morris said.

He also said the FRA is proud of the work it does preparing the simulators and getting them out to soldiers.

"The team here is really dedicated to this program, because of all the potential to save lives," said Morris. "There has been a lot of soldiers killed in rollover accidents, and they put long hours and hard work into building this.

"It's a team effort, and we know the importance of what we're doing," he said.

"Since I've been here, I've had soldiers come up and thank me and my team for what we do here, and that's a blessing," Garrett added.

SINGARS radio systems remain secure, say experts

by JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

U.S. servicemembers can use the SINGARS radio system with confidence, officials with the Army's Communications-Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, N.J., said Oct. 19.

James Bowden, project leader for the single-channel ground and airborne radio system, said recent media articles claim that Hezbollah used advanced technology to crack Israeli communications during the fighting in Lebanon.

The articles allege that the group used technology from Iran to thwart Israeli tank attacks, Bowden said, adding that some service members have expressed the fear that Hezbollah or Iran has shared this technology with extremists in Iraq.

But the articles are wrong, Bowden asserted.

The Israelis do not use the U.S. SINGARS system, but rather they use another frequency-hopping technology, he said.

Frequency hopping means messages switch among dozens of frequencies per second to evade being jammed or intercepted, said Bowden.

"This is not the case," he said. "The Israelis do not have SINGARS radios. They have another frequency-hopping radio that does not have the U.S. frequency-hopping algorithm, does not use the U.S. communications security devices, and does not use the U.S. transmission security devices.

"All three provide robust protection for U.S. SINGARS," explained Bowden.

Those three pieces of the SINGARS provide service members with assured communications security when they follow proper communications procedures, Bowden said.

Service members deploying to Iraq should take all normal precautions, but they do not need to distrust their communications, he said.

He said some soldiers have called the office with concerns about communications security in light of these articles.

"We want to make it clear that they do not have a problem," he said. "SINGARS is the robust type of communications they need to protect against these kinds of threats."

His office has sent messages to the field with this same information. Service members with questions or concerns should e-mail Bowden at James.Bowden@us.army.mil.

He noted that he has been working on SINGARS since the 1980s and can answer any questions about it.